

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 IO-10 /059 W

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R 291822Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6256

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

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E.O. 11652: NA/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: CFDT GOES TO AFRICA

1. THREE-MAN DELEGATION FROM CFDT (CONFEDERATION FRANCAISE DEMOCRATIQUE DU TRAVAIL) HEADED BY ITS SECRETARY GENERAL EDMOND MAIRE WILL BE VISITING ADDRESSEE POSTS IN AFRICA (PLUS BRAZZAVILLE) 15 FEB-4 MARCH. DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE YVES ARCADIAS OF CFDT'S INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTACT WITH THIRD WORLD LABOR UNIONS. THIRD PARTICIPANT HAS NOT BEEN DESIGNATED YET.

2. KEEN INTEREST IN THIRD WORLD HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF CFDT'S POLITICAL ORIENTATION. PURPOSE OF TRIP THEREFORE IS TO RENEW CONTACT WITH LABOR MOVEMENTS OF HOST COUNTRIES WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON ENERGY CRISIS AND HARDSHIPS CAUSED BY INCREASE OF PRICE OF OIL.

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3. CFDT HAS BEEN AN AFFILIATE OF FORMER CHRISTIAN

INTERNATION, NOW KNOWN AS WCL (WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR), BUT ITS TIES WITH THAT ORGANIZATION HAVE BECOME RATHER TENUOUS THE LAST FEW YEARS. LAST YEAR CFDT TOGETHER WITH OTHER WCL EUROPEAN AFFILIATES WON ADMISSION INTO ETUC (EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION) WHICH REPRESENTS AN ATTEMPT TO UNITE WEST EUROPE'S TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS. ACCORDING TO CFDT SOURCES CFDT ASPIRES TO BE THIRD WORLD ADVOCATE WITHIN ETUC PARTLY CUT OF SINCERE CONVICTION THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD SHOW MORE CONCERN FOR THIRD WORLD ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLIGHT AND PARTLY AS A MEANS TO ENHANCE ITS ROLE IN ETUC COUNCILS. ACCORDINGLY, WE WOULD EXPECT EDMOND MAIRE TO GO ALL OUT IN SPEECHES AND STATEMENTS IN THE COUNTRIES TO BE VISITED IN EXPRESSING UNDERSTANDING OF EACH COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL NEEDS. HE WILL PROBABLY NOT HESITATE TO JOIN IN CONDEMNATIONS OF "IMPERIALISM" AS RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESENT SITUATION OF AFRICA.

4. CFDT IS SOMETHING OF A MAVERICK ON FRENCH POLITICAL AND LABOR STAGE. WHILE IT ASPIRES TO BE A REVOLUTIONARY FORCE DESTINED TO PLAY A ROLE IN USHERING IN THE POST-CAPITALIST SOCIETY, IT REMAINS PROFOUNDLY ANTI-COMMUNIST AND FULLY COMMITTED TO DEMOCRACY AND PERSONAL FREEDOM. ITS ALLIANCE WITH THE CGT (IN EFFECT SINCE 1970) IS PRESENTED BY CFDT LEADERS AS AN EXPEDIENT TO OBTAIN RESULTS ON TRADE UNION FRONT BECAUSE OF CGT'S STRENGTH AND EFFICIENT ORGANIZATION. IN ITS EFFORT TO DRAW A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN ITSELF AND THE CGT, CFDT LEADERS DEVELOPED A STRONG ATTACHMENT TO THE NOTION OF "WORKERS' MANAGEMENT" (AUTOGESTION) AND HAVE SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOPED IT AS A CFDT TRADEMARK. AUTOGESTION, ALTHOUGH NEVER DEFINED IN SPECIFIC TERMS, HAS BECOME THE CATCHWORD OF CFDT'S SPECIAL IDEOLOGICAL ORIENTATION AND OF ITS RELENTLESS CHALLENGE TO BOTH CGT AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY ON THE TRADE UNION AND POLITICAL FRONTS. ONE CONSEQUENCE OF THIS HAS BEEN THE EFFORT BY SOME CFDT LEADERS TO DEVELOP CLOSER TIES WITH THE SOCIALIST PARTY.

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5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING FROM ADDRESSEE POSTS IF CFDT VISIT ATTRACTS NOTEWORTHY ATTENTION.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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